

Rick Weiss

Candidate for Pine Strawberry School District Governing Board

I am a self-employed web developer working and living in Pine. Being self-employed I have the flexibility to meet the sometimes demanding schedule of the Board. As a graduate of Arizona State in political science (where I was elected student body president), and as a lobbyist for a year and a half at the state capitol I have a feel for the political side of a school board. As a graduate of Fuller Seminary (M.Div.) and a pastor for 14 years I have a strong sense of the personal care involved in helping to lead a community like our small school provides.

There are several reasons I am running for the Pine Strawberry School Governing Board this year. First and foremost is the concern of all of us as parents that we replace the outgoing principal/superintendent Mike Clark with a candidate who can keep up the level of quality service that Mike provided.

Second, as the father of two children in the school and a third to come before the Board term expires, I want to see that the quality of the education provided continually improves over the next few years.

Since many of the students at Pine Strawberry School are in need of special attention that requires a significant portion of the school's budget, I am concerned that the attention needed to help the academically capable and advanced students to achieve more gets lost. In some ways, a talented student is a 'special need' in the same way that a struggling child is and it is important to give both the support and encouragement that they need.

We have lived in Pine for four and a half years. We have had at least one child in the school each years since we arrived. My wife, Shara, and I have been actively involved in the school and the community for almost the entire time we have lived here. Shara is on the Library Board, we are both members of the charitable group Strawberry's Elite, we teach Sunday School at a local church, and we have been mentoring struggling teens in the area for the past year. We also

operate the local website providing news to the community: PSAZNEWS.com.

We both have some long term goals of providing more places for recreation and activities for the children in the community, and we have appreciated the school, with its central location, and its openness as a place for them. As a Board member I would work to continue and hopefully see even more of a community use of the school property as a place to hold activities and recreate.

I look forward to collaborating with the board members as we work to make Pine-Strawberry School the type of small school that others in our situation look to as a model.